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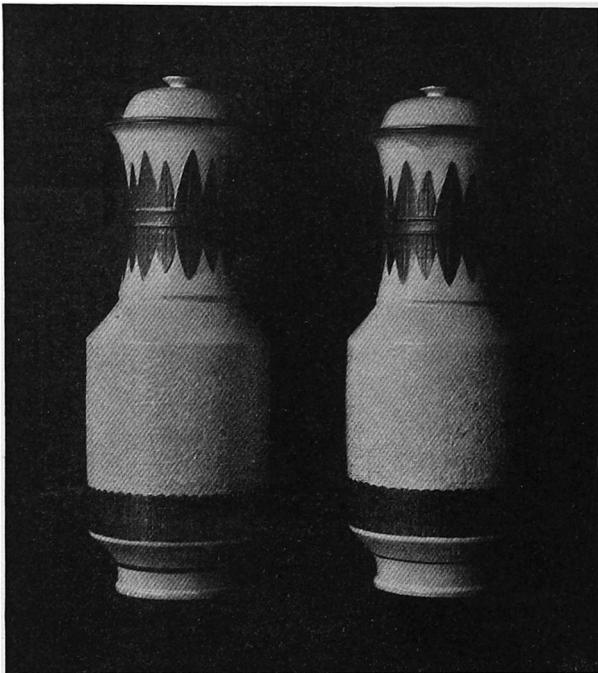
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## KAI-PIEN-YAO, OR SOFT PASTE JARS

KANG-HSI ERA—1662-1722

The above jars of soft paste porcelain (Kai-pien-yao) represent the very highest type and best Keramic technique of the Kaipien potters. The *pâte* is of the finest kind, and the cream-colored glaze is lustrous, waxy, and *craquelé*. The design of the ornament is a carved floral scroll in relief; around the neck and lower part of the body are rich designs in gold. These vases are, without doubt, the choicest specimens in this country. They have been in the present family since 1804, and are valued at five thousand dollars. A noted Orientalist, writing of this particular ware, produced during the Kang-hsi period, says: "The masterpiece of the time is the Kai-pien-yao, or soft paste *craquelé* porcelain." In fineness of *pâte*, in waxlike purity, softness of glaze, in brilliancy, boldness, spirit and skill of decoration, Kang-hsi bears equal honors with *Hsuan-te*."